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INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION CABLE

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REISSUE OF [REDACTED] TO ADD PORTION MISSING IN PARA
FOUR IN ORIGINAL DISSEMINATION.

DIST: 10 JANUARY 1983
COUNTRY: EL SALVADOR
SUBJECT: STATUS OF CONFRONTATION BETWEEN MINISTER OF DEFENSE
AND THE CABANAS DEPARTMENTAL COMMANDER

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DOI:
SOURCE: [REDACTED]

TEXT: 1. GENERAL JOSE GUILLERMO ((GARCIA)), MINISTER OF
DEFENSE, AND COL. RAFAEL ((FLORES)) LIMA, CHIEF OF THE ARMED
FORCES GENERAL STAFF, CONTINUE TO MEET REGULARLY WITH KEY
FIELD COMMANDERS TO SEEK A SOLUTION TO THE REBELLION OF
LTC. SIGIFREDD ((OCHOA)) PEREZ, COMMANDER OF MILITARY DETACHMENT 2,
WHO REMAINS IN CABANAS DEPARTMENT AND INSISTS ON GARCIA'S
RESIGNATION. HOWEVER, BOTH GARCIA AND OCHOA ARE BECOMING MORE
FLEXIBLE AND IT IS LIKELY THAT A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF THE
CONFLICT WILL RESULT.

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2. GARCIA HAS CONFIDED THAT, IF OCHOA CONCEDES AND
ACCEPTS AN OVERSEAS ASSIGNMENT, HE IS WILLING TO RETIRE FROM
THE ARMY, PERHAPS TWO TO THREE MONTHS LATER. FLORES LIMA HAS
PRIVATELY ADVISED GARCIA THAT, IF THE LEVEL OF OPPOSITION AGAINST HIM
CONTINUES, HE SHOULD CONSIDER RETIRING TO LIMIT DISUNITY IN THE
INSTITUTION. WHILE GARCIA WAS AWARE OF DISSENT TOWARDS HIM THROUGH-
OUT THE ARMED FORCES, HE AND FLORES LIMA WERE SURPRISED BY THE
EXTENT OF SYMPATHY WITHIN THE AIR FORCE FOR OCHOA'S POSITION.
PRESSURE IS BUILDING FOR GARCIA TO RESIGN AND, AS OF THE
AFTERNOON OF 10 JANUARY, THE FOLLOWING COMMANDERS CONTINUE TO

REQUEST THAT HE DO SO:

COL. ADOLFO D. ((BLANDON)), COMMANDER OF THE 1ST
INFANTRY BRIGADE;
COL. JUAN RAFAEL ((BUSTILLO)), COMMANDER OF THE
AIR FORCE;
COL. JAIME ERNESTO ((FLORES)), COMMANDER OF SAN MIGUEL
DEPARTMENT;
LTC. NAPOLEON HERSON ((CALITO)) ARBAIZA, COMMANDER
OF THE ATONAL BATTALION;
LTC. DOMINGO ((MONTERROSA)) BARRIOS, COMMANDER OF THE
ATLACATL BATTALION;
LTC. MIGUEL ANTONIO ((MENDEZ)), COMMANDER OF THE
RAMON BELLOSO BATTALION.

3. ALL KEY FIELD COMMANDERS AGREED THAT IN THE INTERESTS OF
INSTITUTIONAL DISCIPLINE AND COMMAND INTEGRITY, OCHOA MUST
BE TRANSFERRED TO AN OVERSEAS ASSIGNMENT, ALTHOUGH NOT NECESSARILY
AS MILITARY ATTACHE TO URUGUAY, AS ORIGINALLY ORDERED BY GARCIA.
GARCIA HAS SCHEDULED ANOTHER MEETING OF FIELD COMMANDERS TO
BEGIN AT 0900 HOURS ON 11 JANUARY. ARRANGEMENTS ARE BEING MADE

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FOR A MEETING, [REDACTED] BETWEEN OCHOA,
GARCIA, FLORES LIMA AND GEN. EUGENIO ((VIDES)) CASANOVA,
DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL GUARD, TO BE HELD AT THE
ILOPANGO AIR BASE.

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4. VIDES CASANOVA CURRENTLY IS THE MOST LIKELY CANDIDATE
TO REPLACE GARCIA. IN THIS CASE, FLORES LIMA SAID HE WOULD BE
WILLING TO REMAIN AS CHIEF OF STAFF BUT WOULD LEAVE THE ARMY
IF BUSTILLO OR BLANDON, WHO HAVE BEEN MENTIONED AS POSSIBLE
REPLACEMENTS, WERE APPOINTED. FLORES LIMA SAID HIS POSITION
IN THE ARMY IS SOLID AND RECENTLY THERE HAVE BEEN EXPRESSIONS
OF RESPECT AND SUPPORT FOR HIM FROM VARIOUS OFFICERS, INCLUDING
MAJOR LUIS ROBERTO ((RODRIGUEZ)) SOSA, EXECUTIVE OFFICER
OF THE SECOND MILITARY DETACHMENT IN CABANAS. IN AN
ATTEMPT TO IMPROVE MILITARY PERFORMANCE AND IN RESPONSE TO
THE COMPLAINTS OF NUMEROUS OFFICERS, FLORES LIMA INCLUDED ON
HIS DRAFT OF THE ORDER TRANSFERRING OCHOA, THE REASSIGNMENT
OF THE FOLLOWING INCOMPETENT OFFICERS WHO ARE GARCIA SUPPORTERS,
TO NON-COMMAND POSITIONS:

COL. MARIO ADALBERTO ((REYES)) MENA, COMMANDER OF
SANTA ANA DEPARTMENT;

COL. RAMON ANTONIO ((MORALES)) RUIZ, COMMANDER
OF LA UNION DEPARTMENT;

COL. ROBERTO DE JESUS ((MONTERROSA)) BONILLA,
COMMANDER OF THE NATIONAL NAVY;

COL. NAPOLEON ((ALVARADO)), COMMANDER OF SAN VICENTE
DEPARTMENT;

COL. ELMER ((ARAUJO)) GONZALEZ, COMMANDER OF
SONSONATE DEPARTMENT.

COMMENT: GARCIA REFUSED TO TRANSFER THESE OFFICERS
BECAUSE OF THEIR PERSONAL LOYALTY TO HIM. HAD HE DONE SO,
THIS WOULD HAVE BALANCED THE ORDER TRANSFERRING OCHOA AND WOULD
HAVE BEEN MORE ACCEPTABLE TO GARCIA'S OPPONENTS.)

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